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Oil and Gas, Natural Resources, and Energy Journal

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A TRIBUTE TO NAWZAD YASIN AND OTHERS: PART 2: OTHERS

OWEN L. ANDERSON*

Part 1 of this essay discusses the short but remarkable life of Nawzad Yasin. Part 2 discusses the careers of my former students who serve as full-time academics. In addition, this part includes a former student who is a retired academic, a former student who is currently teaching part-time and hopes to teach full-time upon earning her Ph.D., and a former student who hopes to teach full-time after earning her Ph.D. and fulfilling a professional obligation to her employer that funded her Ph.D. studies.

**Dr. Christopher Kulander, Professor,
South Texas College of Law Houston**

Chris, as he prefers to be called, was born in 1970 in Hornell, New York, at a regional hospital. Hornell is a rural community, located in the western part of the state near the Pennsylvania border. His interest in academia was undoubtedly kindled by his father, a retired geology professor. His mother is a retired nurse. His maternal grandparents were both high school teachers, as was his paternal grandmother. Thus, Chris observes that “the teaching lifestyle was never a mystery to me growing up.”

* Professor and Distinguished Oil and Gas Scholar, The University of Texas School of Law and Eugene Kuntz Chair in Oil, Gas & Natural Resources Emeritus and George Lynn Cross Professor Emeritus, The University of Oklahoma College of Law. Professor Anderson cordially thanks Nawzad’s fiancé, Jill Nehkorn, and his brother, Barzan, for providing much of the information included about Nawzad. Professor Anderson also thanks Dr. Kathie Anderson for her editorial comments to a draft of this essay.

Chris spent most of his childhood years in Beavercreek, Ohio, located just east of Dayton, where his father served as a professor of geology at Wright State University. Chris, like me, is an only child. He participated little in organized sports but spent most of his spare time engaged in outdoor activities including biking, hiking, and camping, and he was active in Boy Scouts. From a young age, like his father, he was interested in geology and history. His closest link to law was an uncle who practiced law in Atlanta.

“I didn’t enjoy school, generally eschewed homework unless it interested me, and, although graduation was never in doubt, my high school rank was just inside the bottom third out of a class of 666 students. Until about tenth grade or so, I pictured myself being a long-haul trucker as I loved (and still love) long road trips.” After high school, he attended Wright State to study geology, following in his father’s footsteps. Chris said, “I struggled with advanced mathematics and engineering physics.” After a bumpy start, he eventually graduated with a degree in geology. New activities in undergraduate school included “taking up distance running, playing in a garage band (bass and vocals), a brief gig on campus radio, geology trips, camping and hiking, and various creative writing outlets.” His summer jobs included working as a driller’s assistant on a cable-tool rig and working in a gold mine in northeastern Nevada.

He then earned a master’s degree in geophysics at Wright State and served as a teaching assistant. His master’s thesis, *Geology of the Stotlers Crossroads 7.5-Minute Quadrangle in Eastern West Virginia* (June 1995), involved geologic and geophysical mapping. Upon graduation, job prospects were dim, so he applied to three Ph.D. programs—the University of Tennessee, the University of Texas, and Texas A&M. He chose the latter, earning his Ph.D. in geophysics. “To go from a commuter school in an Ohio metro area to rural Texas A&M was an interesting transition to say the least but being older and so busy hanging on in such a challenging program, much of the ‘Aggie’ lifestyle went past me.” Originally, he did not plan to complete a degree, intending instead to jump into industry as soon as hiring increased. However, oil prices continued to lag so he taught some undergraduate geology classes and completed the Ph.D. program. In December 1998, he successfully defended his dissertation, *Geologic Evolution and Structural Controls on Hydrocarbon Flow in the Ship Shoal Block 274/293 Field, Offshore Louisiana, Gulf of Mexico* (May 1999).

After earning his Ph.D., he worked for the U.S. Geological Survey for over three years within the Eastern and Central Energy Teams in Washington, D.C. and Denver, respectively. Although he enjoyed the work,

he did not view it as a long-term possibility. During this time, he re-established a friendship with an old high school chum, Nick Alexander, and his wife, Sharon. After stints in the army, they both attended and graduated from the University of Colorado law school. “Over several whiskey-soaked chats, they talked up law school as a possibility.” His lawyer-uncle also encouraged him.

He took the LSAT in December 2001. Thinking he had not done well he immediately went hiking in the mountains to put law school out of his mind. However, the cost of the exam included sending scores to three law schools. He selected the universities of Colorado, Oklahoma, and Houston. He selected the latter two because a compendium of law schools indicated that they were strong in energy and environmental law. “Turns out, I had done better than I had anticipated, despite not having taken a prep course for the exam.” He recalls that during his life, he had made many impulsive, “ten-second” decisions—some for good and some for bad in roughly equal measure. “Choosing (and then being chosen by) the University of Oklahoma College of Law was the best ‘ten-second’ decision I have ever made.”

During his first week of school, Chris stopped by my office to introduce himself and express an interest in oil and gas law. Although I taught first-year property, he was not in my section; however, his favorite first-year class was property law with Professor Joyce Palomar. He enrolled in my classes in oil and gas law and oil and gas contracts and tax in his second year, where he found that his geology education and experience paired nicely.

“I have never given myself over so completely in a single endeavor as I did in law school.” Chris served as my RA, took 98 hours (rather than the required 90), was a founding editor of the Oklahoma Mineral Law Newsletter, was a note editor and assistant managing editor for the American Indian Law Review, and earned a Certificate of Specialization in American Indian Law. In addition, he worked part time for an oil and gas lease analyst firm. “To my surprise, I graduated in the top 20% and had a new group of lifelong friends.”

“During my time at OU, I began to see a possible future in teaching. I liked the subject matter, knew about the profession from my father, and was getting better at public speaking.” He took several classes and seminars that involved research and writing, which he enjoyed. “If a mere room can itself steer someone towards reading and, through that, teaching, the beautiful central reading room of the OU Law Library gently nudged me in that direction.”

Because law professor positions, especially in the energy field, are rare, he practiced law for six years—first, with Cotton Bledsoe in Midland, Texas, and then with Haynes and Boone, LLP, in its Houston office. Working for Cotton Bledsoe allowed him to gain experience examining titles because, at that time, lawyers still did “stand-up” title examinations. This gave him the opportunity to visit all the county seats in West Texas and to experience their accommodations, which often had the pungent smell of oil and gas operations. He continued to write and publish. In 2010, he was invited to apply for, and then offered, a job at Texas Tech University School of Law to teach oil and gas law courses. He taught at Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas, for three years and then at South Texas College of Law in Houston, where he is today. He remained of counsel at Haynes and Boone until 2018. Additionally, he taught energy law in Lithuania and Poland for five years—serving as a Fulbright Scholar in Lithuania in 2019.

Although he has only been teaching for 10 years, Chris has a publication record that many senior professors would envy. He assists me in updating the multi-volume Kuntz treatise on oil and gas law,¹ he is co-author of the casebook² from which he studied oil and gas law, and he has written chapters in two other books. He has authored over twenty law journal articles and over twenty-five articles in other publications. The Texas Supreme Court has cited articles written by him in three opinions.³:

1. EUGENE KUNTZ, *LAW OF OIL AND GAS* (Matthew Bender & Co. 2020).

2. JOHN LOWE, OWEN L. ANDERSON ET AL., *CASES AND MATERIALS ON OIL AND GAS LAW* (West 1986) (now in its 7th edition). Professor Kulander joined the casebook for the 7th edition, along with one of Professor Lowe’s former students, Monika Ehrman.

3. *Texas Outfitters Ltd., LLC v. Nicholson*, 572 S.W.3d 647 (Tex. 2019) (addressing the mineral executive right) and citing Christopher Kulander, *The Executive Right to Lease Mineral Real Property in Texas Before and After Lesley v. Veterans Land Board*, 44 St. Mary’s L.J.529 (2013) and Christopher Kulander, *Big Money vs. Grand Designs: Revisiting the Executive Right to Lease Oil & Gas Interests*, 42 Tex. Tech. L. Rev. 33 (2009); *Lesley v. Veterans Land Bd.*, 352 S.W.3d 479 (Tex. 2011) (addressing the mineral executive right), citing Christopher Kulander, *Big Money vs. Grand Designs: Revisiting the Executive Right to Lease Oil & Gas Interests*, 42 Tex. Tech. L. Rev. 33 (2009); and *U.S. Shale Energy II v. Laborde Properties, L.P.*, 551 S.W.3d 148 (Tex. 2018) (addressing whether a particular royalty interest is expressed as “fixed” or “floating”), citing Christopher Kulander, *Fixed vs. Floating Non-Participating Oil & Gas Royalty in Texas: And the Battles Rage On ...*, 4 Tex. A & M L. Rev. 41 (2016). He was also cited in *EQT Prod. Co. v. Crowder*, 241 W.Va. 738, 828 S.E.2d 800 (2019), citing Christopher S. Kulander, R. Jordan Shaw, *Comparing Subsurface Trespass Jurisprudence – Geophysical Surveying and Hydraulic Fracturing*, 46 N.M. L. Rev. 67 (2016); *Pennaco Energy, Inc. v. KD Co.*, 363 P.3d 18 (Wyo. 2015) (addressing whether an oil and gas lessee remain bound by the provisions of a surface-use and damage agreement after assigning the underlying oil and gas lease), citing Christopher

An unexpected bonus of becoming a professor of oil and gas law is that another oil and gas law professor, Monika Ehrman, introduced Chris to a petroleum engineer, whom he married in 2018. I will confess to being Professor Ehrman's co-conspirator even though I presumed Chris to be a confirmed bachelor.

**Dr. Hirdan Katarina de Medeiros Costa, Professor,
University of São Paulo**

Hirdan was born and raised in northeast Brazil in the state of Rio Grande do Norte. She is a native Brazilian who had a happy, but financially challenging, childhood. The state's economy relies on tourism, oil production, agriculture, and mineral extraction, including sea salt. She grew up in Natal, raised by a single mom.

When I watched the movie *Gandhi* for the first time, I was thirteen. It was at that moment that I decided to become a lawyer. The ideal of justice, the search for social peace, and the ethical duty of truth were three pillars that motivated me to pursue a law degree. Then, I discovered energy and invested in my career in energy law and policy. In this perspective, I continued my efforts and desires to collaborate in the construction of a regulatory environment that promotes sustainable development in its various dimensions for present and future generations.

Hirdan earned her LL.B. at the University of Rio Grande do Norte, specializing in petroleum law. She wrote a monograph on joint operating agreements in Brazil and became especially interested in petroleum law and contracts after Brazil opened to foreign investment in 1997. She continued writing about joint ventures and other contracts used in the petroleum industry. She was a member of the student negotiators club, published several papers, and assisted in tutoring younger students. From these experiences, she decided to pursue a career as a professor.

S. Kulander, David W. Lauitzen, *A Flock of Trouble: Liability Under Oil and Gas Joint Operating Agreements after Seagull v. Eland*, 14 Tex. Wesleyan L. Rev. 217 (Spring 2008); and Dishman v. BBVA Compass Bank, Civ. Action No. 1:10CV205, 2011 WL 13216958 (U.S. Dist. Ct., E.D. Tex., Feb. 11, 2011) (addressing whether a bank trustee may be sued in its corporate capacity for violating a duty of good faith and fair dealing to non-participating royalty owners who were not trust beneficiaries), citing Christopher Kulander, *Big Money vs. Grand Designs: Revisiting the Executive Right to Lease Oil & Gas Interests*, 42 Tex. Tech. L. Rev. 33 (2009).

Because Hirdan graduated in the top 10% of her class, she was invited to take the test for earning a master's degree at the University of São Paulo (USP). In 2004, she earned her master's degree in energy issues and wrote a thesis that focused on the regulation of natural gas in Brazil from a comparative international perspective—comparing Brazil's natural-gas regulations with those of Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and the European Union. In 2007, she was selected to pursue a Ph.D. in sciences in the energy program at USP. During her course of study, she earned a scholarship from the Brazilian government to study with me at OU and to offer lectures on discrete topics. While at OU, she wrote a research paper about Brazil's model petroleum concession contract and participated in two conferences sponsored by the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators (AIPN).

While pursuing her Ph.D. at USP, Hirdan continued to mentor students and serve as a teaching assistant in economics and engineering. She also taught at the Maua Institute of Technology in São Paulo. "I quickly discovered that energy intersects with almost any field of study." She earned her Ph.D. in 2012. Her dissertation focused on the Brazilian petroleum fiscal system. In 2013, she returned to OU for further study with me and earned her LL.M. degree. Returning to USP, she was awarded a research fellowship focusing on oil and gas law and policy. She earned a post-doctorate degree in sustainability at USP, and then received another research fellowship. She is currently a collaborating professor of energy programs at the USP Institute of Energy and Environment. In 2019, "the tables were turned" in our relationship. I spent four months at USP where I assisted her in teaching a petroleum law class and assisted her in two ongoing research projects.

In addition to receiving numerous funded research grants at USP, she is widely published. Hirdan has written eight books, one or more chapters in another 40 books, and over 50 articles. Although most are in written in Portuguese, a few are in English. With all this, until her baby was born this past summer, she still found time to work for children's rights and environmental justice in her home state of Rio Grande do Norte.

**Dr. Carolina Araújo de Azevedo Pizoeiro, Professor,
Federal University of Rio de Janeiro**

Carolina was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and raised by her mother, a now-retired dentist. She was not close to her father until he was over 70 years old. He worked for a state-owned natural gas distribution company in

Rio de Janeiro and has a degree in information technology. Her hobbies include listening to rock music, swimming, and driving. She has a vacation home in the beautiful mountain city of Teresópolis. She owns a guitar but has yet to find time to learn to play it.

She earned her LL.B. degree from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) in 2006. While attending school, she worked as an intern in the Public Attorney's Office, in the Securities and Exchange Commission (CVM), and as an intern in Telecom Italian Holding for TIM Telecom. In her final year of law school, she interned at a small litigation firm.

Following graduation from law school, Carolina worked at the Negreiro, Medeiros & Kiralyhegy law firm for three years and then for the Rocha e Barcellos law firm for two years. She did both litigation and commercial work for Brazilian and international clients. In these positions, she developed strong legal research, writing, and communication skills, as well as organization and coordination skills in litigation matters. During this time, she did post-graduate work in labor law and international relations. She considers the latter a turning point in her career, reinforcing her interest in international law, especially in what has been called the "Global Governance" movement.

She earned an LL.M. at the Rio De Janeiro State University (UERJ) in international law. At UERJ, she met my friend Dr. Marilda Rosado de Sá Ribeiro (Dr. Rosado) who became her advisor. Since then, Carolina has dedicated herself to the study of international petroleum law, contracts, and regulations, especially compliance with foreign and domestic corrupt-practices laws. She joined the AIPN student club at UERJ and was awarded a summer scholarship to study corruption. Through her involvement with the AIPN student club, she met me when I came to Brazil to direct an AIPN workshop. While in Rio, I presented a lecture to the student club on the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The master's program at UERJ included a mandatory teaching component. Carolina taught a class in private international law. Following her master's degree, she passed an exam that awarded her a two-year teaching contract at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) where she taught civil procedure and private international law.

In 2012, she was awarded a Brazilian scholarship to earn an LL.M. at OU in energy and natural resources. She served as my research assistant for a project about the Brazilian petroleum fiscal system. After earning her degree, she returned to Brazil to Dr. Rosado's law firm, specializing in oil and gas law. She also applied for a Ph.D. program at UERJ.

Carolina started her Ph.D. program in 2014, studying with Dr. Rosado and focusing on international law, compliance, and corruption in the energy industry. Her dissertation focused on a new Brazilian anti-corruption law,⁴ comparing it with the extraterritorial anti-corruption law of other nations, especially those of the U.S. and U.K.

During her Ph.D. studies, Carolina passed another exam that awarded her another two-year-contract to teach at the UFRJ where she taught private international law to graduate students. She also taught some classes in oil and gas law and in international contract law in a post-graduate program at the Catholic Law School of Petropolis City and classes in oil and gas law and compliance law for the Brazilian Petroleum, Gas, and Biofuels Institute (IBP).

From 2015 to 2019, Carolina worked part time as a compliance manager for a U.S. based oil and gas investor group that owned a specialized Brazilian petroleum survey company, Seaseep Dados de Petroleo Ltda. She was responsible for all legal matters of the group in Brazil, including contracts, anticorruption compliance, and relationships with ANP, the Brazil oil and gas regulatory agency.

In 2019, Carolina passed yet another exam to become a full-time professor of private international law at UFRJ. She teaches conflicts of laws and conflicts of jurisdiction to upper division students and oil and gas law and international contracts of oil and gas and compliance to lower division students. She also serves as the Law School Coordinator and as a Counselor at the Center of Law and Economics, a joint center sponsored by the school of law and the school of economics and administration studies.

Carolina has long wanted to be a professor. “Students are so fresh and so full of hope for humanity.” However, her ultimate ambition is to work in an international organization such as the United Nations.

Dr. Mahmoud Reza Firoozmand, Assistant Professor of Energy and Petroleum Law, Petroleum University of Technology, Abadan, Iran

Mahmoud—one of my many former students at Dundee—is an Assistant Professor of Energy and Petroleum Law at the Petroleum University of Technology in Tehran, Iran. Although I was his teacher in only one class that was taught intensively over one week, I remember him well, and we have kept in touch. He and his wife invited me and a co-teacher, Professor John Lowe, to their Dundee flat for dinner.

4. Brazil Law No. 12.846 (August 1, 2013).

Mahmoud's specialty is petroleum law. He recently wrote, "although I had the unique opportunity to be at your class just for one week, your passion and dedication as well as your method of teaching, together with invaluable books and articles written by you, have had life-lasting impact on my academic career...."

Mahmoud was born in Dezfoul, a small town in southern Iran, close to the Iraq border. His father was a tradesman and an avid reader, and his mother raised the children. In September 1980, Dezfoul was the first target heavily bombarded from both air and land by Saddam Hussein's armed forces. Mahmoud was only 15 years old. The ensuing war lasted more than eight years, interrupting his education and changing his life.

Following a ceasefire, Mahmoud took a nationwide test to determine eligibility for acceptance into higher education. Mahmoud's test rank was 350 out of more than 300,000 test takers. He simultaneously started a career as an administrative officer at the Abadan Refinery. He earned a B.A. in the Faculty of Law and Political Science at the University of Tehran in 1995. The following year, he began earning an LL.M. in public international law at the University of Shahid Beheshti. Upon graduation, he worked in the Ministry of Petroleum in Tehran as a lawyer in the Joint Ventures and International Affairs Department where he negotiated offshore and onshore petroleum development projects and some exploration projects. In 1999, he transferred to the Gas Marketing and Export Department of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), where he worked on several major gas-related projects, including LNG and gas pipeline ventures.

In 2001, Mahmoud applied to the S.J.D. program at SMU University to work with Professor John Lowe and was in final stages of applying for a U.S. visa when the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon occurred. His visa was never finally processed. He then applied for, and was accepted into, the Ph.D. program at the Centre for Energy, Petroleum and Mineral Law and Policy Dundee to study with the late Thomas W. Wälde. His dissertation was titled "The Effects of Force Majeure on Contractual Obligations with Particular Focus on International Petroleum Contracts."

During his time at CEPMLP, he took classes from regular Dundee faculty as well as visiting scholars, including John Lowe, Phillip Crowson, Han Van Houtte, Jonathan Stern, and me.

Mahmoud earned his Ph.D. in 2006 and returned to Iran where he was appointed an Assistant Professor of Energy and Petroleum Law at the Iran Petroleum University of Technology (PUT). He teaches a wide range of oil and gas law courses, including upstream oil and gas contracts; international

energy organizations; dispute management and dispute resolution in the oil and gas industry; environmental law related to oil and gas activities; international comparative petroleum law; and international law aspects of oil and gas industry. Additionally, he teaches a wide range of petroleum and commercial law classes, cooperating and collaborating with law faculties at other universities, including Tehran University, Shahid Beheshti University, and Imam Sadigh University.

After four years at PUT, he became the Director of Legal Affairs for National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)—the highest-ranking legal post in the Ministry of Petroleum—and a member of the NIOC Board. After four years at that post, he returned to PUT in 2014. He has eight major publications and has written several seminar papers.

Dr. Talal Abdulla Al-Emadi, Professor, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar

Talal holds an LL.B. degree from Qatar University (1994), an LL.M. degree from Harvard University (1998), and a Ph.D. from Oxford University (2013). He is a member of the first law class at Qatar University, the first Qatari to be admitted to Harvard Law School, the first Qatari to earn a Ph.D. from Oxford University, and the first Qatari to be appointed to the law faculty at Qatar University. When he enrolled at Qatar University, he had no plans to be a professor. “I then thought that people go to law school to be lawyers or maybe judges.” However, one of his professors encouraged him to consider an academic career, so he applied to graduate schools.

While a student at Oxford, he came to Dundee in 2004 for the international petroleum law class that I taught with Professor John Lowe. During the week, we met with him to discuss his dissertation, which analyzed Qatar joint-venture LNG projects. Ultimately, his dissertation became a book, *Joint Venture Agreements in the Qatari Gas Industry: A Theoretical and Empirical Analysis* (Springer Nature Switzerland 2019) that contains a forward by Professor Lowe and me.

Talal specializes in international economic law, focusing on how the law interacts with petroleum investment. His interest in how law facilitates long-term relationships of trust between Qatar and international oil and gas companies. He trained and coached the first team representing Qatar in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in 2008. Talal was selected as Jessup judge in 2018.

Talal is a registered lawyer in the Qatar Bar. He serves the Amiri Diwan, the official office of the Amir of Qatar, as a legal counselor for the Minister

of State for the Council of Ministers Affairs. In addition to serving on many university committees, Talal is the Chairman of the Mediation Division at the Qatar Sports Arbitration Tribunal (QSAT), Qatar Sports Arbitration Foundation (QSAF); a member of Qatar National Committee and Negotiation Team for Climate Change, Ministry of Municipality and Environment; President of the International Law Association Qatari Branch' member of Qatar National Committee for International Humanitarian Law, Ministry of Justice; member of Georgetown Center for International and Regional Studies Program Committee (Qatar); and founder of the Oxford Alumni Society in Qatar. He previously served on the Qatar National Mental Health Committee, the National Olympic Committee, and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development, which funded a new law school at Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Talal's international service activities include being a member of the Harvard University Institute for Global Law & Policy Academic Council, the Editorial Board of the Oxford University Press-AIPN *Journal of World Energy Law & Business*, the Educational Advisory Board of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators, the Editorial Board of the *International Studies Journal*, and Member representing Qatar on the Executive Committee of the Islamic World Science Citation Center.

In addition to the previously mentioned book, Talal has authored a book chapter on the taxation of oil and gas in Qatar and nine articles. He has peer reviewed numerous articles.

**Kwon Hong Ryu, Professor, Wonkwang University,
Iksan, South Korea**

Kwon Hong Ryu—one of my many former students at the University of Melbourne—is a Professor of Law at the Wonkwang University in Junbuk, Republic of Korea. As with my Dundee students, my time with Kwon was limited to one week of class, taught intensively—about 26 hours over 5 days. Since then, my wife and I have kept in contact with him and his wife, Mihwa, Kwon.

Kwon Hong was born in Kangkyung, a small town in southwestern South Korea—about a three-hour drive from Seoul. His father was a primary school teacher, and his mother reared five children. He studied law at Hanyang University and earned his LL.B. in 1993. He passed the bar exam and completed two years of mandatory training and supervised research to become a practicing lawyer.

Kwon Hong practiced law in Incheon, near Seoul. His practice was a mix of civil and criminal litigation and administrative law. Beginning in 2001, he served four years as general counsel of Korean Gas Corporation (KOGAS), a state-owned gas company. KOGAS is the largest importer of LNG in the world. As South Korea has no proven oil and gas reserves, it is a major importer of oil and is among the top five importers of LNG.⁵ In addition to becoming an LNG trade expert, he learned valuable leadership skills. Desiring a broader knowledge of energy, he moved his family to Melbourne, Australia, in 2005 and enrolled in the LL.M. program at the University of Melbourne, where he took my international petroleum law and transactions class.

After earning his LL.M, Kwon Hong returned to Korea to practice law in the Barun (Right) Law Firm. During this time, the Korean government launched an initiative to transform its legal education system to the American model. In 2007, Kwon Hong was recruited by Wonkwang University, where he teaches petroleum law, mineral law, environmental law, and public international law. He invited me to visit the university in 2008, where I gave a lecture on the energy situation in Iraq.

In addition to being a law professor, Kwon Hong has served as a bar examiner for the subject of environmental law and is active in the Korean Environmental Law Association and as the Director of the Wonkwang Humanities Research Center. He has served on numerous government committees, including the New Energy Industry Advisory Committee, Resources Development Expert Committee for the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy (“MOTIE”), the Hans River Water Management Committee, the National Gambling Control Commission, the Task Force for Renovation of Foreign Resource Development, the Young Energy Leaders Forum for the Ministry of Knowledge and Economy, a Civil Legislation Officer for the Ministry of Government Legislation, and Contract Review Committee for the city of Incheon. He serves as a mediator for the Electricity Dispute Mediation Committee of KPX, the system operator responsible for matching demand and supply (load balancing) in the wholesale electricity market. He consults for several energy companies regarding LNG sales and purchase agreements and other legal matters.

Kwon Hong has written 15 books, mainly on energy, resource development, and water law and policy, and over 40 articles.

5. U.S. Energy Information Admin., International, Korea, <https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/KOR> (Nov. 6, 2020).

Michelle Phillips, Assistant Professor, The University of North Dakota

In August 2020, Michelle Phillips began her career as an oil and gas law professor. After working in the land-management departments of Shell and Hess, she accepted a position at the University of North Dakota (UND) School of Law. Michelle was born in Honolulu, Hawaii—an unlikely beginning for a woman who has spent her career in the oil and gas industry because Hawaii has no oil production,⁶ and I suspect not many native-born Hawaiians have taken up residence in North Dakota. Her family moved to Oklahoma City when she was in first grade, where she grew up among the oil well pads and pump jacks in Northwest Oklahoma City. When asked about her memories of the pump jacks, Michelle stated that “they were so common, I barely paid attention to them. There was even a working pumpjack in the parking lot of the neighborhood grocery store.” Although her school was less than 2 miles from her house, she passed at least four operating pumpjacks on her way to school.

Michelle lived in a blue-collar neighborhood but was educated at a white-collar school. She recalls, “starting at a young age, I had to straddle an economic divide. My parents were both from working-class backgrounds, but they both valued my education. Because they thought that my brain could be a way to improve our family’s overall economic condition, they made lots of financial sacrifices to send me to a small private school, Heritage Hall. My classmates came from very different circumstances.” Typically, the parents of her classmates were college graduates, and it seemed to her that most students had at least one parent who was a physician or an attorney.

Growing up, Michelle was an active Girl Scout. Instead of enrolling her in the troop at school, her mom enrolled her in a troop in their neighborhood. Thus, most her Scout friends came from working class families. When reflecting on how Girl Scouts prepared her for her future Michelle said, “spending Scout nights at neighborhood houses felt much more like my home than spending time at the homes of my classmates in the wealthier part of the city. So, at a very young age, I learned how to walk in two worlds. I learned that we all have more in common than we have that distinguishes us, and I developed skills to be able to connect quickly and strongly with anyone—no matter their background.” She cites her upbringing as valuable experience used later when negotiating land-use agreements with farmers, ranchers, and other landowners. “Girl Scouts

6. In World War II, when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Japanese pilots inexplicably did not destroy the petroleum storage facilities,

taught me the importance of being resourceful. We learned life skills like how to read a bus schedule and how to sew—most likely things I would never have learned if I had been in a troop with my schoolmates. Finally, I learned leadership.” At school, she often felt like an outsider because her family did not belong to a country club and could not afford skiing vacations—the norm for most of her classmates. When talking about how she felt compared to her peers in Scouts, Michelle stated, “in Scouts, I felt like an equal. I was also always an overachiever—always. As both a Brownie and a Junior, I earned ALL badges. I don’t mean a lot. I mean I earned every possible merit badge available. My poor mother had to sew multiple extensions onto my vests so I could proudly display them on my uniform.”⁷

In high school, Michelle became an enthusiastic debater and public speaker. It was then that she first thought about being a lawyer: “I really loved the challenge of thinking quickly on my feet and identifying policy and philosophical groundings for my arguments.” She has maintained a friendship with her debate team members as well as her opponents, and she stays in touch with debate coaches from several schools. During her final two years of high-school, she attended the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics—a two-year residential and academically rigorous high school. Students must successfully complete two semesters of advanced chemistry, three semesters of advanced physics, two semesters of advanced biology, and mathematics through Calculus II. Michelle recalls that “this exposure to science has helped me understand the technical components of oil and gas exploration and production, even if I don’t hold an engineering degree.”

Upon graduating high school, she was “burned out” on science and math. She enrolled in Georgetown University and studied business. At Georgetown she renewed her interest in numbers and spreadsheets and developed analytical skills that helped her frame decisions based on economics. She enjoyed her studies but desired more human contact and leadership opportunities: “So, like many who graduate but are unsure about what to do, I sat for the law-school admissions test. But, because I loved the numbers and the business side so much, I only applied to programs where I could earn a JD and MBA concurrently.” At this point, her father was in declining health, so she moved back home to continue her education. “When I started, I wasn’t sure that law school would really be for me. To

7. Judging from Phillip’s recent Christmas greeting, which included a picture of her daughter, Ella, in her girl scout vest, Ella is also earning all available badges.

hedge my bets, I started my education at Oklahoma City University School of Law in their evening program so that I could work as a grant writer for a local non-profit by day and attended classes at night.” By the spring semester, she realized that law and business were her preferred career paths, so she transferred to OU, which had a joint J.D.-MBA program.

Because she liked both law and business, she wanted a corporate and transactional career over a traditional law practice. “I realized early that I would thrive in a business setting instead of writing briefs or editing contracts without the ability to make quick judgements like I used to do as a debater.”

Although she enjoyed her law school classes, she felt like an outsider—as she had at Heritage Hall: “Again, many classmates had parents and grandparents with legal backgrounds. Although I did well academically and worked hard, I never felt like I fit in with my classmates.” She impressed a member of the adjunct faculty who served on the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals. Michelle recalls “he offered to let me clerk for him as an intern, and I gladly jumped at the offer. I enjoyed this internship, but I remember the awkward moments we shared when he asked me about the firm where my father practiced. I had to explain that my father worked in the Produce Department at the local Albertsons grocery.”

Never daunted by having to blaze a new trail, she interviewed for variety of positions through the career services centers at the law school and at the business school.

I remember sitting in my pajamas one Saturday night scrolling through the campus job postings when I saw an opportunity with Shell Oil as a “landman.” I had no idea what that meant, but I submitted my resume anyway and assumed that I was smart enough to figure out the role if I was granted an interview. Before my interview, I “Googled” about what a landman does and was pleased to learn, among other things, that it was a unisex term. I managed to impress the recruiters enough to be chosen for a further round of in-person interviews. I traveled to the Shell office in Houston for a grueling two days of taking tests and completing collaborative negotiations exercises.

I remember talking to her after Shell interviewed her. She said that Shell asked some difficult and unexpected questions that were designed to gage how she could “think on her feet.” Her prior high school debating experience served her well, as Shell offered her a job. She recalls:

At that point, I knew that I was in over my head and decided to knock on Professor Anderson's door—the only person I had ever heard of who could answer my questions, even though I had never taken his classes.... Without Professor Anderson's guidance, I might not have accepted this job and thus would never have discovered my passion for the oil and gas business.

When I started at Shell, I was trained in all aspects of the land department including onshore negotiations, division orders, lease administration, and offshore negotiations. My first posting was to conduct project management of environmental remediation work in fields located across the country. These were locations where courts had ruled that Shell was responsible (either jointly or individually) for environmental cleanups. Finally, all of that science background was coming in handy! I could work with engineers to determine the core issue and the best path forward—a perfect role for a person who loves where business and the law come together....

While at Houston office of Shell, I managed to study for and pass the Texas bar. My parents were unable to travel to Austin to see me sworn in, so I decided to sit for the Oklahoma bar as well. Passing the bar was a huge milestone for my family. I was the first to go to college, to attend graduate school, and now to be a licensed attorney.

Somewhat later, Shell management decided to give me more traditional experience—sending me to a remote area of Colorado to run an emerging lease play. I found a new passion – negotiations! Running title was a fun experience as well. In the county where Shell was leasing, there were no digitized records, so I climbed ladders in the courthouse, pulled enormous indices and records books, and read some good and some bad calligraphy to understand the documents. On that project, I challenged Shell's prior assumption that we could just rely on the tax assessor records with respect to minerals. The title for those records only went back about 50 years. While running title, I realized that mineral reservations dated back to the 1800s in that area because of prior coal development—a “hard knocks” lesson for a relatively inexperienced landman!

After working in Colorado for over a year, Michelle was transferred to Louisiana to gain experience with shale plays in both the upstream and midstream parts of the business. She negotiated pipeline corridors and surface-use agreements. After spending over a year there, she returned to the Shell Houston office to manage the operations desk for the Rockies region—allowing her to learn about the development of leases that she had previously negotiated. In August of 2011, Hess Corporation offered Michelle a career advancement—a business development position in the Bakken shale in North Dakota.

Michelle credits me for encouraging her to work in oil and gas land operations. I did, but her drive, determination, and abilities made it happen. I advised, as I always do, that she should seriously consider the “landman” offer if she would like a career working inside an oil and gas company. Although large oil and gas companies have legal departments, lawyers in that department seldom “get their hands oily.” Indeed, some may practice employment law or some other specialty. Landmen do the actual property, contracting, and negotiations work that result in petroleum exploration, development, and production. Although she did not take my basic oil and gas law class, she did take my oil and gas contracts and tax class after she accepted employment at Shell.

After receiving her JD-MBA degree, we kept in touch sporadically, but when she left Shell for Hess, our paths closely intersected again. Hess has a long history of operating in the Williston Basin, largely located in my home state, North Dakota. In fact, a predecessor company of Hess, Amerada Petroleum Co. drilled the first successful oil well there, the Clarence Iverson No. 1, in 1951, when I was sixteen months old. Sixty years later, Michelle was sent to Minot to manage Hess’s Bakken shale assets, where her work included well planning and permitting, title work, project management, litigation, drafting a variety of contracts to facilitate operations, acreage trade negotiations, local stakeholder engagement, leading all surface land-use negotiations, and onshore and offshore midstream business development.

When asked about her career, Michelle said, “Over my career, I have the experiences of working an operations desk, running special curative projects, leading surface operations, and working in business development. It was time for a new adventure—teaching.”

Because the University of North Dakota is my alma mater and the place where I began teaching, I actively recruited Michelle to apply for the UND position. Although born in Hawaii and raised in the much warmer Oklahoma climate, Hess posted Michelle to Minot, North Dakota, where

the average January high temperature is 20°F and the average low is 3°F. Thus, because she had enjoyed Minot, I was confident that she would like Grand Forks, where the average January high is 15°F and the average low is -3°F. Moreover, I could tell by her posts on social media that she enjoyed her time in North Dakota.

When she was offered the UND job, I called her and asked how she felt about it. She replied, “well, I’m thinking I could contribute to the shaping of young minds in the study of energy and business law, or I could build another pipeline.” By her tone, I could tell that teaching was the higher calling.

During her first month of teaching, I e-mailed her to ask how things were going. She replied: “I don’t know how you have maintained a crystal ball for my career, but you were 100% right. I LOVE it—more than I ever expected. I am so excited to talk to students about oil and gas—and even business associations. It’s amazing! Almost as much fun as talking to landowners. No, definitely more fun, because students want to talk to me too.”

Michelle hopes to bring her career experience from the corporate world into the classroom to help prepare the next generation of lawyers. She is passionate about law graduates considering non-traditional career paths. In connection with her chosen career and the fact that she had a law degree but was working in the land, not legal, departments of companies, she took on what she describes as a “hobby”—taking and passing (on the first try) numerous bar exams. She is licensed to practice law in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, North Dakota, and Montana (in order of admission). Upon learning of her extensive bar-exam experience, I am certain that her students will seek her guidance about preparing for bar exams.

When I prepared this essay, Michelle was still living in Houston and teaching online. She and her daughter, Ella, will relocate to Grand Forks, North Dakota, when the Covid-19 pandemic subsides. She is active in her community as a leader with the San Jacinto Council of Girl Scouts, the Certification Committee Vice-Chair for the American Association of Professional Landmen, a member of the Staff Parish Relations Committee at her church, and a board member for the Trinity Health Foundation in Minot, North Dakota. In addition to several Hess awards for leadership and performance, she was recognized with the 2018 Outstanding Women in Business Award from the North Dakota Women’s Business Center. This award is meant to celebrate a woman who has made significant contributions to her organization, her profession, and her community. To

round things out, she has won several ribbons at the 2019 North Dakota State Fair for baking and knitting.

Daniel Nicholson, Assistant Professor, The University of Oklahoma

Professor Nicholson teaches legal research and writing and coaches moot teams at The University of Oklahoma (“OU”). OU is ranked in the top-five schools for moot teams by the Blakely Advocacy Institute. Although he does not teach oil and gas law, I did influence his decision to enter teaching—perhaps more so than the other students included in this essay.

When I first started teaching, I taught a section of legal writing at the University of North Dakota and did so for eight years plus one more at Texas Tech University. In 2002, the OU director of the legal research and writing program retired. Because of my prior experience, the Dean asked me to be the new director. Up to that time, the OU legal research and writing team consisted of one full-time director and several adjunct professors, resulting in an uneven quality and consistency of instruction. The faculty decided to hire full-time legal research and writing professors and to have reference librarians assist in teaching legal research. The faculty also decided to hire a full-time moot competitions director and to have legal research and writing professors help coach the teams. I was tasked with recruiting people to staff the new positions. I established a screening committee to evaluate the candidates, and after considerable cajoling, I succeeded in convincing Daniel to join the OU legal research and writing teaching team.

Daniel was born and raised in Enid, Oklahoma, in a blue-collar family. While in high school, he worked as a busboy at a restaurant, working his way up to senior cook. When the restaurant closed, he delivered furniture. This back-breaking experience and his brother’s encouragement convinced him that college might be a good plan. He took out student loans and worked at a friend’s auto machine shop while earning his degree from Phillips University. As a hobby, he took up auto racing. After earning his undergraduate degree in 1993, he hung his diploma above his main workbench and continued machining and building racing engines for the next ten years, until, one day, he decided that it was time to do something else. He took the Law School Admission Test (“LSAT”), applied to the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and was accepted. Daniel recalls, “my parents couldn’t believe that I was ‘giving up a good job’ to go back to school. But I sold my drag racing car, took out more student loans, and moved to Norman.”

The College of Law did not allow first-year law students to work even part time while school was in session. Because of this, he was anxious about not having an earned income, so he worked at the machine shop over semester break. Late in spring semester, I announced to my property class that I needed a research assistant to start work over the summer and beyond. Daniel came to my office immediately after class to apply. I took his information and told him that I would let him know. Patience is not one of Daniel's strong suits, so he asked me the very next day and the day after if I had made up my mind. He served as my research assistant for the next two years, and we became good friends. He got to know my family, and he helped me select a car for my daughter and has since helped diagnose needed repairs.

Daniel fast tracked through law school, graduating a semester early in December 2001. After passing the bar, he worked for a large oil and gas law firm in Oklahoma City. In June 2002, I asked Daniel if he might be interested in teaching legal research and writing and coaching moot-court teams at OU instead of practicing law. Daniel recalls, "public speaking was never one of my strengths. To be honest, moot court was the most terrifying part of law school for me." Daniel turned me down flat, but remembering his persistence with me, I was persistent with him. Eighteen years later, he is still a professor of legal research and writing—teaching the most important skill taught in law school, and he is still coaching moot-court teams.

Although he gave up drag racing, he still enjoys an adrenaline-rush hobby—kite boarding. His office is adorned with recent kite-boarding pictures, along with pictures of him in various kite-boarding magazines. These pictures serve as a great icebreaker with his students.

He writes, "Educators change lives in so many ways. Throughout life, a person is educated, both formally and informally, by those who can transfer knowledge effectively.... While we regularly remember the education, we rarely remember the educators. The rare exception for me is Professor Owen Anderson...."

Christine Fritze, Retired Professor, University of North Dakota

Christine Fritze was born in Anadarko, Oklahoma, "The Indian Capital of the Nation," and the sixth of eight children in a post-World War II, middle class, devout Roman Catholic home. She attributes growing up in a large Catholic home as having a significant impact on her practice of law and on her teaching.

Her parent's faith, and thus how they raised their children, is best exhibited by their reaction to their daughter Margaret's killing in 1968. Margaret, not quite 18, was murdered by a local farmer. He shot her twice and then turned the gun on himself. Their bodies lay in the summer heat for hours before being discovered. Christine recalls, "the incident rocked the community and, really, the State, as the murder occurred long before 24-7 cable television news, when the U.S. heartland was generally a peaceful place to live." Christine's parents, Jim and Angeline Hanson, buried their daughter one day and then attended the funeral of her killer the next. One of the primary tenets of their faith, forgiveness, was tested, and this is how they began that process. Christine did not realize it then, but the strength of her parent's faith—not just forgiveness—was passed to their children and would shape Christine's dealings with others, especially in her practice of law and teaching.

Art Schmidt was a partner at Mahaffey & Gore, the firm where Christine interned during law school and where she became an associate in 1991. Art once commented to Christine that a primary reason that women have difficulty navigating and advancing in the legal and corporate world was their "lack of team sports." Art was referring to teamwork and negotiating, to losing and moving on, and to being beaten but not carrying a grudge. He was not wrong—at least, not at that time. Anadarko schools offered no female sports—not basketball, not soccer, not softball, not track—until Title IX was instituted in Christine's junior year of high school. However, having grown up in a large family (2 boys and 6 girls), Christine had a great deal of team experience.

When Christine was in high school, she attended Caddo-Kiowa Vocational Technical School. This was unusual from the perspective that most students who attended a vo-tech in the '70s were not academic students. Christine was. But for a single B, she was a "straight A" student from grade 1 through grade 12. She wanted to go to college and then to law school, but she had one roadblock: her parents were not financially able to support her. So, she took computer classes at the local vo-tech, not as a career path, but as a means of gaining the skills needed to secure a job and support herself through college.

Christine notes: "When I was studying computer programming and operations, and even later working in the computer departments of various data processing companies, I had no idea that I was involved in the early years of the IT boom. I thought if a small-town girl in Anadarko in 1972 could learn about computers, they must be common as rain." At that time, a

woman in the IT field was almost unheard of. She says, “Had I stuck with that work, I might have ended up in Silicon Valley and retired years ago!”

Her dream of law school was sidetracked by marriage and raising three sons. She accepted a job offer in 1983 at that same vo-tech school she attended as a student—teaching computer programming and operations. While teaching, she finally finished her undergraduate degree in adult education. In 1988 she enrolled in law school, and as her youngest son who was then in first grade said, “our first year was hard.”

She graduated in 1991 and became an associate at an oil and gas firm, Mahaffey and Gore in Oklahoma City. She was glad for the opportunity, not because she was particularly interested in oil and gas law at the time, but because in 1991, Oklahoma was still digging out of an oil bust. “Any job offer was welcomed.” During oil booms, oil and gas title attorneys and contract negotiators are in high demand. A bust requires litigators and bankruptcy lawyers. So, Christine became a litigator. She spent the next 20 years honing her litigation skills. From 2001 through 2009, her practice focused on complex litigation, including royalty owner class actions. By 2009, she was worn out and took a hiatus, traveling to Africa with an organization that worked with children unable to afford school and volunteering with Oklahoma Lawyers for Children—a non-profit that represents deprived and neglected juvenile children.

In early 2011, she read about a new program to begin in the fall semester at the OU College of Law—the John B. Turner LL.M. Program. One of the offered specialties was oil, gas, and natural resources law. Although she had practiced oil and gas law for 20 years, Christine took my introductory oil and gas law class. When other students asked if she was a 2L or 3L, she would say that she was a “24L.”

Christine’s LL.M. class comprised of seven students—two from Oklahoma and one each from Cameron, Nigeria, Iran, China, and Bulgaria. Christine particularly enjoyed her friendship with Ensieh Mohajeri, the Iranian student who wants to become a professor, as I discuss below. Throughout their time together, they shared lively discussions about global issues and the differences between their faiths, Islam and Christianity.

Because Christine was the only LL.M. student with extensive oil and gas experience, she tutored her classmates. After fall grades had been released, she came to my office to discuss her interest in teaching. I knew that the University of North Dakota did not have a full-time oil and gas professor at the time, and I also knew that one was needed due to the Bakken oil shale boom that was occurring in North Dakota. She was interviewed in the summer of 2012 and started teaching in August.

Christine was not enthused about entering the tenure-track treadmill, but because of her practice experience, UND offered her a “contract position.” Except for getting her settled and attending one hockey game each year, her husband remained in Norman. Because he was a commercial airline pilot, Christine was able to take free standby flights to Oklahoma several times each semester, making her commute economically viable.

One of her favorite students at UND was a 3L. “John” had an eidetic memory, was quiet and reserved, and an avid hunter. He enrolled in her natural resources law class in fall 2012, Christine’s first semester of teaching. At semester’s end, Christine went back to Oklahoma for semester break and did not return until shortly before classes started again in January. When she returned, John came to her office to let her know that he was going to withdraw from classes. He had taken her final but no others. John had fallen into a deep depression. Christine convinced him to stay and worked with him, getting permission for him to do a self-study with her for his final degree requirement. He was able to complete his law degree by the end of the summer semester. Although he committed suicide a few years later, Christine believes that she was a positive influence in his life and had helped him overcome his demons in that moment in 2012.

Christine spent four years teaching and considers them four of her best. It was an exciting time to be an oil and gas professor in North Dakota. Thanks to the unconventional Bakken shale oil play, North Dakota had gone from being a marginal producer in the U.S. to a major producer in a matter of a few years. She was asked by the Dean to be a liaison with the state bar association, which allowed her to travel the state, visiting the counties where the oil boom was occurring—no small feat given that Grand Forks is on the Minnesota border and the oil producing counties are about 300 miles to the west.

Christine also formed a relationship with the university’s petroleum engineering department. Through that relationship, she was able to take her law students to visit a drill site. They were able to see firsthand how a horizontal well was drilled and hydraulically fractured. She also took students to visit a surface coal mine. Students appreciated that she shared her litigation experience. In several instances, cases included in my co-authored casebook were ones that Christine had helped litigate, while many others were cases she had cited and relied on in her motion and appellate practice.

While at UND, she also taught an elder law seminar each year. It might seem strange for an oil and gas professor to teach elder law. During her first 20 years of law practice, she had also practiced guardianship and mental

health law. “I practiced oil and gas law to put food on the table. I practiced elder law to feed my soul.”

After 4 years at UND, Christine became a victim of another petroleum industry downturn. Oil prices were falling quickly, the North Dakota shale oil boom was waning, and UND budgets were being slashed. Contract professors in every discipline were being laid off. She returned to Norman and now practices in a small firm focusing on estate planning, probate, and elder law. She serves as the firm’s minerals expert.

Christine came to teaching late in her career. She wanted to engage with young law students who were just setting out on their careers and teach them some law but mostly wisdom she had gained in her many years of law practice. Like me, she enjoys the quips of the late oil magnate, J. Paul Getty, who once said, “Don’t let your classes get in the way of your education.” I often quote my favorite “Gettyism” in my oil and gas examinations—his formula for success: “Rise early, work late, strike oil!”

Ensieh Mohajeri, an Aspiring Academic

I hope that more of my students will end up in academia. I am confident that at least a few more will. Ensieh Mohajeri, mentioned above, earned her OU LL.M. degree in 2012. She is currently earning a Ph.D. at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran, one of the highest ranked colleges of law in the country. After she earns her Ph.D., she hopes to become a professor. Her husband, Mohammed, is already a professor, serving as Vice Dean of the Petroleum Faculty at the Amirkabir University of Technology in Tehran.

Shortly after earning her LL.B. from Imam Sadiq University in Tehran, Ensieh qualified for the Iranian bar and received her attorney license. She began her professional career as an in-house legal advisor for a leading engineering consulting firm (MGCE Co.) that specialized in dams, hydropower plants, irrigation and drainage systems, water supply and treatment plants for urban and rural areas, wastewater collection systems, and recycling plants. While there, she realized that Iran had few lawyers specializing in energy. She took the nationwide exam to gain admission to an LL.M. program. She earned her first LL.M. from Shadid Behesti University in Tehran in international commercial law, but focusing on petroleum transactions, in a program funded by the Iran Petroleum Ministry. After earning an LL.M., she had planned to work for the Ministry as a legal advisor, but her interest in academia and her desire to complete her education caused her to consider educational opportunities beyond Iran.

In her own words, Ensieh describes her pursuit of an education that would qualify her to become a professor:

I was very fortunate that one of my professors [Dr. Mahmoud Reza Firoozmand, above], a former student of Professor Anderson, introduced me to him. However, Iran-US relationship and the visa issue is a great obstacle for Iranian students who seek to pursue their dreams in US universities. Nevertheless, I was eager to beat the challenge. In my first contact with Professor Anderson, his supportive attitude made me confident in my decision. With all the challenges, I enjoyed my OU classes, especially my classes with Professor Anderson in oil and gas law, oil and gas contracts, and international petroleum transactions.

After earning her OU LL.M., Ensieh returned to Iran in 2013. She quickly secured employment to teach a course in English legal terms in petroleum contracts and worked for MAPNA Group Co. as a legal and contract advisor. MAPNA develops thermal and renewable power plants, oil and gas projects, railway transportation, and other large projects. It also manufactures associated equipment, including gas and steam turbines, electrical generators, heat recovery steam generators, turbine blades and vanes, conventional boilers, electric control systems, gas compressors, locomotives, and other related equipment. The company operates in Iran and several other countries.

Notwithstanding her success as a corporate attorney, she remained interested in an academic career. She sat for another nationwide exam for admission to a Ph.D. program in 2016, once again being admitted to Shahid Beheshti University's petroleum law program. Her professional experience and education had made her keenly aware of the necessity for revisions in the Iranian contract models and regulations to avoid future protracted disputes. Thus, her dissertation topic is "Legal Strategies to Avoid Claims in Upstream Petroleum Contracts—A Study of the Iranian Petroleum Contract (IPC)," which will focus on the basis for contractual claims, propose strategies to avoid disputes, and propose modifications to the IPC.

After she earns her Ph.D., she wants to share her professional and academic knowledge with law students by becoming a professor. Knowing Ensieh and the challenges she has already faced, I have no doubt that she will realize her dream.

Luciana Palmeira Braga, an Aspiring Academic

Luciana Palmeira Braga was born and raised in Belo Horizonte, in the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais, historically a very poor region that became somewhat wealthy due to gold and iron mining. Both her mother and maternal grandmother were teachers. Her father was a self-employed accountant, and her mother was a teacher.

She attended primary and secondary school at Colégio Pio XII, run by the Selesians. Luciana earned a degree in Public Administration, specializing in public procurement from the Fundação João Pinheiro Government School, the school of reference for educating students for public careers in Brazil. She earned her LL.B. from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, specializing in public law. She attended Rio de Janeiro State University, earning a specialist certificate in public law, where she wrote a monograph about the history of Brazilian upstream petroleum regulation, studying with Dr. Marilda Rosado de Sá Ribeiro, my long-time friend. She next earned a master's degree in energy planning from the Alberto Luiz Coimbra Institute for Graduate Studies and Research (COPPE) from the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. The title of her master's thesis is "The Unitization Process in the Pre-salt Area and the Practical Potential Problems of Three Different International Petroleum Agreements."

She began her public-service career with the State Minas Gerais State in 2003. There, she worked in public procurement, implementing a new price registration system that greatly lowered procurement costs. In 2006, she successfully competed with 100 candidates for a position with the Brazilian National Petroleum Agency (ANP). For six years, she worked in the Licensing Rounds Department, promoting bid rounds, managing the bid-qualification processes, and drafting tender protocols, concessions, and product sharing contracts (PSCs). For the next six years, she worked in ANP's Production Department. There, she monitored concessions and PSCs in their development and production phases, coordinated unitization processes, served as a legal advisor for farm-in/farm-out processes and for decommissioning, drafted upstream regulations, and rendered administrative legal opinions.

I met her in 2011 at University of Dundee, Scotland, where she was a visiting scholar, studying petroleum investment contracts and unitization. She attended my class in international petroleum transactions, which I co-taught with Professor John Lowe.

In 2014, she published a book, *Pre-salt: Unitization Process and International Petroleum Contracts* for which she was awarded the Plínio Cantanhede Prize for the best technical article published by the Brazilian Institute of Petroleum (IBP) between 2012 and 2014. In 2018, she was a visiting scholar at the University of Houston Law Center.

Luciana and her husband are currently enrolled in the Ph.D. program at the Applied Economics Lab at the Université Grenoble-Alpes, in France. Her dissertation is about the influence of non-state rules in the national regulatory system, suggesting a transnational legal order for the upstream sector of the petroleum industry and a new type of governance—Transnational New Governance.

She has been active in charity groups and is currently supporting “Gamboa in Action,” an organization that cares for children in precarious social situations in Rio de Janeiro. She enjoys travel and learning about new cultures. Beside her current residence in Grenoble, she has lived in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina, New York City, and Dundee, Scotland. She enjoys cooking, taking cooking classes, running, cycling, stand up paddling, yoga, and skiing. She and her husband are raising a son, Martin, born in Grenoble in 2018.

Since we first met at Dundee, we have kept in touch. She arranged for Professor Lowe and me to teach an in-house week-long class at ANP in Rio de Janeiro, and she has visited me at the University of Texas, where she lectured to my class on international petroleum transactions. We frequently correspond about Brazil’s petroleum law and policy. After earning her Ph.D., under the terms of her scholarship, she will return to ANP where she intends to implement a new system of upstream regulation modelled on her dissertation, which will encourage the participation of multiple stakeholders in rule-making processes. But her long-term goal is to become a professor. Since 2008, she has published 14 articles and has lectured in various post-graduate classes sponsored by the Brazilian Petroleum Institute (IBP) and by the Catholic University of Petropolis. She has also given several in-house lectures at ANP. Along with Professor Almadi, above, she serves on the Editorial Board of the Oxford University Press-AIPN *Journal of World Energy Law and Business*.

Concluding Thoughts

Like many of my former students, becoming a law professor was an unlikely prospect. I was raised in a farming and ranching community in North Dakota. I worked on my father’s farm since I was old enough to pick

rocks from the fields prior to planting and during every summer from my university through law-school years. I attended a one-room country school, where I had one classmate. The entire grade one through grade eight student body never exceeded twelve students. We were taught by one teacher. The school library consisted of a small alcove of about 80 ft² (7.4 m²). When the school closed prior to my grade seven, I attended a small-town school where I graduated high school with 17 classmates. I believe I was the second graduate of that school to attend law school. Notwithstanding that these schools were small, I received good instruction in most classes. My only regret was not being able to learn a foreign language, and in my university years, I was reluctant to tackle the task.

Realistically, my long-term plan was to return to my family farm and ranch and practice law part time. I accepted an initial job in state government to gain some work experience where I quickly transitioned to oil, gas, and coal transactional and regulatory work. I stayed in that field and never returned full time to the farm and ranch, which was located too far east in North Dakota to be in the “oil patch.” Then came an unexpected teaching opportunity at my alma mater.

For those students who become professors, I think most are influenced by prior professors and teachers. For me, it was not my oil and gas professor but one of my elementary-school teachers, Mrs. Ruth Moe, my high-school speech and music teacher, Mr. Eugene Gunhus, one of my political-science teachers, Professor Lloyd Omdahl, and my first-year property teacher, Professor Robert Beck. On reflection, the only thing that each of them seemed to have in common was a natural ability to teach. Professor Beck became a close friend after I graduated. In a partial reversal of roles, he began teaching oil and gas law some years after I graduated and used the casebook that I co-authored.⁸ He also recruited me to help write portions of a multi-volume treatise on water law.⁹ I am also indebted to W. Jeremy Davis, Professor and Dean Emeritus, the University of North Dakota. He was instrumental in providing me with an opportunity to teach, and he stepped aside from teaching oil and gas law so that I could do so. I credit my wife, Kathie, another master teacher, writer, and editor, for much of my success. Did I influence the students featured in this essay to enter academia? I hope so—at least in a small way. I am very proud of them, and I hope that they are and will remain as happy as I have been as a law

8. JOHN LOWE, OWEN L. ANDERSON ET AL., *CASES AND MATERIALS ON OIL AND GAS LAW* (West 1986) (now in its 7th edition).

9. ROBERT E. BECK ET AL., *WATER AND WATER RIGHTS* (Matthew Bender & Co. 2020).

professor. Based on my experience, being a law professor is close to as perfect a career as anyone could have.

I was greatly honored and humbled when I received an offer in 1992 to become the Kuntz Professor at OU. Eugene Kuntz and his wife Rose became close friends. I hope I made them proud of me. The Professorship was elevated to a Chair during my twenty-three and one-half years there. I was later named a George Lynn Cross Research Professor, OU's highest honor. But my greatest honor at OU occurred when I retired at the end of 2015—an OU alum, a former student of Professor Kuntz, and a consummate oil and gas lawyer, Clark Musser, endowed a scholarship in my name to be given to OU law students who are interested in energy and natural resources law.

My proudest achievements have been to play roles, however small, in encouraging and supporting my students in achieving their career dreams—whatever they may be. For those who have entered academia, I trust that many, if not all, will excel and contribute to solving the many complex issues associated with providing energy to a growing global population that desires clear air, clean water, and a safe climate together with abundant and affordable energy.